

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Notice of Intent to Repatriate a Cultural Item in the Possession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice

Notice is hereby given under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 of the intent to repatriate a cultural item in the possession of the Metropolitan Museum of Art that meets the definitions of "sacred object" and "object of cultural patrimony" under section 2 of the act.

The carved wooden figure measures 29 3/4 inches high. The figure was donated by Mr. Raymond Weilgus in 1964 to the Museum of Primitive Art. The figure was transferred to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1978. Museum records do not indicate where or when the object was originally collected.

Information regarding the carved wooden figure was included in the summary sent to the Pueblo of Zuni in November, 1993. A representative of the Pueblo of Zuni subsequently requested additional documentation of the figure, including museum records and a photograph. Representatives of the Pueblo of Zuni have inspected the museum records and the photograph and have identified the carved wooden figure as being a *Ahayu:da* or War God. The Pueblo of Zuni affirms that this *Ahayu:da* is needed by traditional Zuni religious leaders for the practice of traditional Zuni religion by present-day adherents. The Pueblo of Zuni also affirms that this *Ahayu:da* is of ongoing importance to the pueblo as a whole and could not have been alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual member of the Pueblo of Zuni.

Based on the above mentioned information, officials of the Metropolitan Museum of Art have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between the figure and the Pueblo of Zuni. Officials of the Metropolitan Museum of Art have also determined that the figure meets the definitions of sacred object and object of cultural patrimony pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(C).

Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with this object should contact Julie Jones, Curator in Charge, Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the American, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 5th Avenue, NY, NY 10028-1098, telephone: (212) 570-3705 before December 23, 1994. Repatriation of the object to the Pueblo of Zuni can begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: November 15, 1994

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Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Chief, Archeological Assistance Division
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